

Elder Abuse

Elder abuse has become a major problem for many of our elderly citizens. If you suspect a friend, family member or yourself of being mistreated there are people available to help. You can call your local Area Agency on Aging, a physician, or talk to your VNA nurse.

- **Physical violence** causes physical pain or injury and could include: slapping, hitting, and striking the person with objects.
- **Neglect** is failure of a caregiver to meet the needs of the dependent elderly person. This could be intentional (withholding food or medications, leaving an elderly person home alone when they require care, or refusing to take the elder for medical advice).
- **Financial** abuse can include acts of theft of pension checks or savings, threats to enforce the signing or changing of wills or other legal documents, and coercion involving financial matters.
- **Emotional** abuse occurs when the caregiver calls the elderly person names, frequently shouts and belittles them, making them feel unrespected and worthless.